

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRESENTING INFORMATION  
ORGANIZED BY HIERARCHICAL LEVELS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A system and method for presenting information organized by hierarchy levels displays navigation bars related to the hierarchy of nodes from the root node to the one or more sub-nodes having the lowest hierarchy level and hides unrelated sub-nodes, such as siblings of ancestors of the lowest hierarchy level node. The relevant levels of the hierarchy are displayed as a stacked box metaphor to provide strong state information for information associated with a desired sub-node of the lowest selected hierarchy level. Index tabs provide a view of heterogeneous sections sliced across a desired attribute to provide rapid navigation through a hierarchy of non-homogeneous classifiers to find information having an indexed attribute. Activation of a sub-node navigation bar displays information associated with the sub-node or displays child nodes and hides sibling nodes of the activated sub-node. An activation icon associated with navigation bars allows a user to browse upwards in the hierarchy level as desired.